REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Prior to this Office Action, Claims 48-63 were pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 48-63 are rejected. By the above amendments, Claims 48 and 55 are amended. New Claims 64-67 are added. Accordingly, Claims 48-67 are currently pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 48-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 0 679 005 A1 to Haddock. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Haddock teaches a voice data management device that integrates voice data into other user applications. The device of Haddock includes a display for visually representing a voice message. An algorithm is used to segment the voice message into major portions of speech and major portions of silence. The result is the voice message being displayed along a timeline in which portions of speech are displayed as dark segments along the timeline, and portions of silence are displayed as light segments along the timeline.

Haddock teaches a method of word spotting, where a spotted word is associated with the entire segment in which the spotted word is located. A marker is then associated with the entire segment. Accessing the marker acts to access the voice message at the beginning of the segment associated with the marker. However, the spotted word associated with the segment, and with the marker, can be located anywhere within the segment.

Markers are used to visually label specific segments. For example, in Figure 2 of Haddock, a speech segment 50 is labeled with a phone marker. The phone marker is associated with the entire segment 50. The phone marker is not associated with a specific portion of the segment 50. Segments are defined as major blocks of either speech or silence (Haddock, col. 5, lines 14-17). In other words, each speech segment contains any spoken content bordered between two block of silence (a silence block before the speech segment and a silence block after the speech segment). As such, a speech segment is not defined by a specified predetermined content (word spotting), but instead the speech segment is defined by any block of spoken content. For example, the speech segment 50 that is labeled with the phone marker may include the spoken content "If you need to get back to me, my number is 228 455" (Haddock, col. 5,

lines 52-53). Although a predetermined content associated with the phone marker is "228 455", the phone marker itself marks the entire speech segment 50, not the specific predetermined content "228 455".

In summary, Haddock teaches that in the case of a segmented voice message, a marker is associated with a predetermined content, such as a telephone number, by associating the marker to the entire segment in which the predetermined content is located. The predetermined content is not explicitly marked by the marker, but instead the segment is marked. As such, to playback the portion of the voice message associated with a marker, an entire segment must be played. Haddock does not teach searching for predetermined content and <u>directly marking located predetermined content</u>, and then <u>playing back the predetermined content directly</u> by accessing the voice message at the marker.

It is acknowledged within the Office Action that Haddock teaches a marker associated with a segment (word spotting segment). However, associating the marker with the segment means that a user accessing the marker will access the beginning of the segment. The segment must be played from the beginning in order to hear the predetermined content (word spotting), regardless of where the predetermined content is located within the segment. This is not the same as positioning the marker <u>directly at</u> the predetermined content so that accessing the marker will access the predetermined content directly, as is claimed in the amended independent Claims 48 and 55.

Amended independent Claim 48 is directed to an apparatus for marking and accessing bookmarks within a voice message. The apparatus includes a storage media to store the voice message, a processing unit coupled to the storage media to automatically search the voice message for a predetermined content and automatically bookmark located predetermined content within the voice message, <u>wherein each bookmark is generally configurable to be positioned anywhere within the voice message, and each bookmark is specifically positioned directly at the predetermined content such that accessing the bookmark directly accesses the predetermined content</u>, wherein the predetermined content is selected from the group consisting of telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, physical addresses, dates, and times, and a user interface to access the voice message at the bookmark. As discussed above, Haddock does not teach searching for predetermined content and positioning a bookmark directly at the located predetermined content. Further, since Haddock does not teach positioning the bookmark directly at the predetermined content, Haddock can not teach directly accessing the predetermined content by way of accessing the bookmark. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 48 is allowable over Haddock.

Claims 49-54 are dependent on independent Claim 48. As stated above, Claim 48 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 49-54 are also in a condition for allowance.
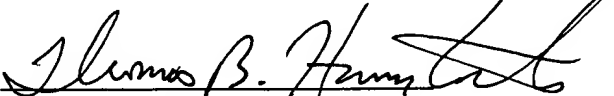
Amended independent Claim 55 is directed to a method of bookmarking a voice message. The method includes automatically searching the voice message for a predetermined content, wherein the predetermined content is selected from the group consisting of telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, physical addresses, dates, and times, locating the predetermined content, and automatically bookmarking the predetermined content at a first bookmark location with a first bookmark, <u>wherein the first bookmark is positioned directly at the predetermined content such that accessing the first bookmark directly accesses the predetermined content, further wherein the first bookmark is generally configurable to be positioned anywhere within the voice message.</u> As discussed above, Haddock does not teach searching for predetermined content and positioning a bookmark directly at the located predetermined content. Further, since Haddock does not teach positioning the bookmark directly at the predetermined content, Haddock can not teach directly accessing the predetermined content by way of accessing the bookmark. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 55 is allowable over Haddock.

Claims 56-63 are dependent on independent Claim 55. As stated above, Claim 55 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 56-63 are also in a condition for allowance.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 9-17-04

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